

as what we get from the entire individual income tax. With that kind of spending, it should have been able to create some jobs.

□ 1515

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield once again. The other thing that would create the climate for jobs would be small businesses. And yet here at the end of last year, the 7(a) loan program, which is really the driving force for financing for small businesses was absolutely turned out. No money in it. It was eliminated. But because we raised so much havoc on it, they have brought that back, but with fewer dollars. So we still do not have the infusion of money for this powerful engine that drives the economy through job creation, which are the small businesses.

So, again, the President is not operating in the true sense of helping Americans to get back to work.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, again, the Congressional Black Caucus stands up, as we have over and over again. It is said that we are the conscience of the Congress. I claim we are the conscience of the United States of America.

The fact is that President Bush is doing no favors for not only the African American community but communities throughout this country; for hardworking Americans who got up early this morning, some of whom had a job, but for others who are about to lose their job, and still others, Mr. Speaker, who do not have to go to work because they have already lost their job. I just find it very interesting that the President would go to Ohio, a State where there has been phenomenal job loss, and tell people who do not have a paycheck to hold on and hold out.

CONDOLENCES TO TERRORIST VICTIMS IN SPAIN; AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS VULNERABILITY AND REDUCTION ACT OF 2003

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my condolences to the families of the terrorist victims in Madrid, Spain.

This heinous act of violence is becoming all too common an occurrence. This morning, as we are all painfully aware, a series of explosions ripped through several packed commuter trains in Madrid during the morning rush hour. The blast killed at least 173 people and wounded 600.

Last month, in an all too familiar circumstance in Moscow, a bomb exploded inside a crowded subway train during the morning rush hour, killing at least 39 people and wounding more than 130.

Securing our Nation's public transportation system has been a top priority of mine. At the outset of the 108th Congress, I introduced the Public Transportation Systems Vulnerability and Reduction Act of 2003, which is H.R. 1148. For years, Mr. Speaker, governments around the world have recognized that public transportation is a major terrorist target. Until 9-11, the United States had been largely spared the kinds of terrorist campaigns waged against public service transportation. However, we cannot wait for a tragedy to happen to prompt us to address our vulnerabilities.

In October 2001, a study released by the Mineta Institute, Protecting Public Surface Transportation Against Terrorism and Serious Crime: An Executive Overview, cites that between 1920 and 2000, there have been approximately 900 terrorist attacks and other significant criminal incidents involving public surface transportation systems. However, all but 14 of these attacks occurred after 1970, the year that marks the beginning of modern terrorism.

Attacks against transportation and transportation infrastructures accounted for about 42 percent of all international terrorist attacks according to the most recent statistics provided by the U.S. DOT Office of Intelligence and Security in 1998. We are seeing these statistics play out before our eyes on CNN.

My legislation, the Public Transportation Systems Vulnerability and Reduction Act of 2003, will provide our Nation's transportation systems and workers with the training and funding to help protect our homeland. This legislation will provide funding for ongoing vulnerability assessments which would build continuously on information collected, allowing for easier implementation of new technology that will assist in averting terrorist attacks on all modes of public transportation. It will have training programs for front-line transit employees, ensuring that these employees, who are the eyes and ears of transportation systems, are prepared to respond to emergency situations. And it will develop and have implementation of local and regional emergency preparedness plans that fully utilize a community's transportation resources.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in continuing to work to give our Nation's transportation systems and employees the resources to protect our communities. I urge my colleagues to support the Public Transportation Systems Vulnerability and Reduction Act of 2003.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. I yield to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman for yielding, because I want to identify with the remarks she made starting off her 5-minute speech. I was going to start my

special order in the same way, recognizing and extending our sympathy to the families of the victims in Spain.

It was only a short period ago that the prime minister from Spain was here, and last summer I had the opportunity to visit in Spain with the prime minister, along with the Speaker of our House, to express our appreciation to our colleagues in Spain who have been very involved in the war on terrorism. And so I thank the gentlewoman for bringing that to the attention of our colleagues here in the House.

I will also take a look at the legislation that the gentlewoman has authored, recognizing that the war on terrorism is a real war.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman for his interest.

IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, today, I am joined in this special order by my colleague, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE). As my colleague from California just indicated, we come to the floor of the House recognizing the tragedy of the terrorist attacks in Spain. We are not quite sure who was responsible, but we know there was a significant loss of life.

We know that Spain has been an ally in the war on terrorism. Their soldiers have fought with our troops in Iraq. Their prime minister was here a couple of months ago indicating their strong support and their partnership, whether it was al-Qaeda, whether it was domestic terrorism, or whatever.

But we join in expressing our sympathy to the government and the people of Spain for the loss that they suffered today and reaffirm our commitment to the people of Spain that we will continue to work and fight with them in this war on terrorism that in so many different ways has reared its ugly head not only in Spain, the United States, but in Africa, in Saudi Arabia, and with the USS *Cole* and a number of other attacks throughout the world.

Today, we want to talk a little bit about the situation that has gone on in Iraq and kind of put that in context. We have recognized this war on terrorism. We have recognized the threats from Saddam Hussein and others for a long period of time. It was back in 1992 that Senator Gore was talking about what a threat Saddam Hussein and Iraq was.

Here is a quote from a speech he gave in 1992. Senator Al Gore: "He," meaning Saddam Hussein, "had already launched poison gas attacks repeatedly, and Bush looked the other way. He had already conducted extensive terrorism activities, and Bush looked